

# METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ANONYMOUS NETWORK ACCESS IN THE ABSENCE OF A MOBILE SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method and apparatus enabling a mobile user device (102) to anonymously  
access a network (108, 114) in circumstances where access to the network is  
prohibited that includes an interim identity generator (138), positioned in the mobile  
user device, generating an interim international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) in  
response to access to the network being prohibited. The interim IMSI is utilized for  
signaling exchanges requiring information corresponding to a SIM card (142) when  
access is prohibited. A user identity module (152, 154) detects the presence of the  
interim IMSI in a signaling message, and routes the signaling message to a first home  
15 location register (156), in response to the signaling message including the interim  
IMSI, which then computes and transmits an authentication triplet to the mobile user  
device. The user identity module routes the signaling message to a second home  
location register (150) in response to the signaling message not including the interim  
IMSI.

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